

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0007] Currently within most retail environments, a retailer is unable or finds it difficult to determine at what point payment media loss is occurring. For example, in many retail outlets a cashier will log onto a till at the start of a shift and log off at the end. Typically, the till position will be taken up by another cashier who works the next shift. Further, cashiers may log on and off of tills during a shift dependent upon the number of tills that need to be open at any one time due to customer demand. In addition, tills may be emptied either periodically or only at the end of a day. Thus, it is very rare that a till will be cashed at the same time the cashier logs on or off. Consequently, identifying which cashier was operating the till when a loss was incurred is near impossible. The retailer would wish to know which cashier was operating the till at the time when a loss occurred so the cashier can either be retrained, if the loss was a legitimate accident, or disciplined ~~is the~~ if the loss was deliberate and unlawful. Thus, in the back office and CIT operator, it is desirable to avoid human intervention during the payment media handling process.

Please replace paragraph [0077] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0077] As shown in FIG. 2, the payment media network environment 100 includes one or more payment media originating sources 110, 112, 114 that are located in one or more retail stores 120, 122, 124. Payment media originating sources 110, 112, 114 in the one or more retail stores 120, 122, 124 are electronically coupled ~~to an~~ to a payment media management system 200 via a communication network 150 and communication links 152-154 and 156. Alternatively, one or more payment media originating sources 110, 114 in one or more retail stores 120, 124 may be coupled directly to the payment media management system 200 via communication links 151, 155, thus, bypassing the communication network

150. Moreover, payment media originating sources within a retail store may be electronically coupled to each other via a communication link 157.

Please replace the Abstract with the attached substitute Abstract.